the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for demerger of the Namrup units from HFC and sanction of its revamp/revival scheme. The process to secure term loan for the Namrup Revamp Project from the banks/financial institutions has been initiated.

Starvation Deaths in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa

*95. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths reported during the Kharif season in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa;

(b) whether drought hit farmers raided FCI godowns in drought hit areas; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to distribute stocks with Government to the starving farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Government of Orissa have strongly denied allegations of "starvation deaths". No reports of starvation deaths have also been received from any other State including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No such report has been received in this Ministry.

(c) As per information furnished by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, the total stock of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India and the State agencies stood at 582.80 lakh MTs on as 1.10.2001. 27.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains have been allotted free of cost to various drought/flood affected States for Food for work Programme. Distribution at the ground level is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

Loss to DMS from intact return Milk

*96 SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that monetary loss from the intact return milk is about 50 per cent of the total losses of DMS during the last 18 months;

(b) if so, the details of milk and these losses, month-wise, on

account of poly film wastage, electricity, manpower, fat and SNF reprocessing etc.;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints on this issue but no action has been taken against the officers responsible therefor; and

(d) whether intact return milk is not inherent in milk supply; if so, the reasons for not taking any action?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. total loss from return milk during last 18 months is estimated at Rs. 6.35 lacs as against deficit of Rs. 12 crores. The month wise returned milk and estimated loss during the last 18 months are as follows:

Month	Quantity of returned milk (Lakh litres per day)	Monthly estimated loss (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
April, 2000	0.16	0.30
May, 2000	0.28	0.42
June, 2000	0.27	0.41
July, 2000	0.21	0.35
August, 2000	0.20	0.44
September, 2000	0.14	0.35
October, 2000	0.14	0.23
November, 2000	0.14	0.20
December, 2000	0.14	0.14
January, 2001	0.18	0.15
February, 2001	0.15	0.11
March, 2001	0.12	0.15
April, 2001	0.15	0.35

1	2	3
May, 2001	0.17	0.45
June, 2001	0.17	0.49
July, 2001	0.14	0.51
August, 2001	0.17	0.51
September, 2001	0.18	0.79
TOTAL:		6.35

(c) and (d) The loss due to return milk is minimal. Even the returned milk is reprocessed and sold. Whenever a complaint is received it is looked into. The intact return of milk is inherent in the system of milk distribution in polythene pouches. Hence, there is no question of fixing the responsibility for the same.

Revival Package of Vizag Steel Plant

*97. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the current status of revival package of Vizag Steel Plant of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd., in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the reasons for the inordinate delay in implementation of the revival plan of this steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) A detailed proposal consisting of dispensations from the Government like setting off of the accumulated losses, capacity expansion, providing Government Guarantee for raising funds and extension of Govt. Guarantee for working capital loan was considered by the Government but the proposal was found not viable. The Disinvestment Commission proposed writing off of the entire accumulated losses of the company as on 31.3.1999 along with disinvestment of not less than 51% of its remaining equity to a strategic buyer. No time frame has been decided for the revival plan of RINL.

(b) The delay is due to the unsuccessful efforts made so far to reach a consensus on the revival plan between Govt. of Andhra